

Serial No. 10/627,816
Amdt. dated December 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 13, 2004

Docket No. CIT/K-0139A

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-20 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 10, 12-14 and 16-18 have been amended, claims 19 and 20 have been added and claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. In addition, the specification and abstract have been amended to correct various informalities. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the following Remarks is respectfully requested.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Remarks set forth below, the amendments to the claims are made for the purpose of correcting informalities and/or to more clearly define the claimed invention, and are not made for the purpose of overcoming the cited art.

Applicants note the Office Action's indication that an application in which the benefits of an earlier application are desired must contain a specific reference to the prior application in the first sentence of the specification. The specification has been amended to add a specific reference to the parent application.

The Office Action objects to the abstract because of a spelling error. The abstract has been amended to correct the spelling error.

The Office Action rejects claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph because claims 16-18 depend from a canceled base claim. Claims 16-18 have been amended to correct

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their dependency. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,635,989 to Nilsson et al. (hereinafter "Nilsson"), and rejects claims 10, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,081,071 to Rogers in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,167 to Onitsuka et al. (hereinafter "Onitsuka").

However, the Office Action indicates that claims 11 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 10 has been amended to include the features of claim 11, and claim 11 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10, and dependent claims 12-18, are now allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Added claim 19 includes at least the features of allowable claim 10, and is thus also allowable.

Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form as added claim 20, including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that added claim 20 is allowable.

Serial No. 10/627,816
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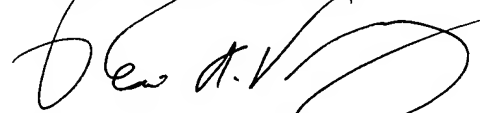
Docket No. CIT/K-0139A

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **René A. Vázquez, Esq.**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: DECEMBER 13, 2004

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